

A complete listing of all Claims and their status, with amendments to the Claims follows:

Claim 1 (amended) A single lumen balloon catheter to assist a beating heart comprising a balloon membrane, a tube, a tip, and a stylet, said balloon membrane, tube and stylet each having proximal and distal ends, the distal end of the tube is connected to the proximal end of the balloon membrane, the tip is connected to the distal end of the balloon membrane, the distal end of the stylet is connected to the tip, the proximal end of the stylet is connected to the distal end of the tube, the stylet being more flexible towards the distal end than the proximal end.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The balloon catheter as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a reinforcement ring having an inner surface, said reinforcement ring being disposed within the distal end of the tube, the proximal end of the stylet being fixed to the inner surface of the ring.

Claim 5 (withdrawn) The balloon catheter as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a tongue, said tongue extending from the distal end of the tube and connecting to the proximal end of the stylet.

Claim 7 (withdrawn) The balloon catheter as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a wire, said wire reinforcing the tube and comprising an exposed portion and an unexposed portion, at least a portion of said exposed portion projects from the unexposed portion and connects to the stylet.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The balloon catheter as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a fiberoptic sensor and a fiberoptic fiber, said fiberoptic sensor being fixed to the balloon catheter, said fiberoptic fiber extending from the sensor through a space defined by the balloon membrane and through a gas shuttle lumen defined by the tube, said fiber being secured to the stylet.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The balloon catheter as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a fiberoptic sensor, a fiberoptic fiber and a thin walled tube disposed over the stylet, said fiberoptic sensor being fixed to the balloon catheter, said fiberoptic fiber extending from the sensor through a space defined by the balloon membrane and through a gas shuttle lumen defined by the tube, said fiberoptic fiber being sandwiched between the stylet and the thin walled tube disposed over the stylet.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The balloon catheter as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a fiberoptic sensor and a fiberoptic fiber, said fiberoptic sensor being fixed to the balloon catheter, said fiberoptic fiber extending from the sensor through a space defined by the balloon membrane and through a gas shuttle lumen defined by the tube, said fiber being embedded in the stylet.